

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

The anti-Kerry documentary, regardless of Sinclair's ridiculous assertions to the contrary, is nothing more than a campaign advertisement for the Republican Party, no less so than the well-known "Swift Boat Veterans" advertisements. The United States has campaign advertising laws to make the process more fair, not simply so that they can be subverted by dishonest companies such as Sinclair Broadcast Group.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.